

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-26 are newly presented, and Claims 1-13 have been canceled herewith. No new matter has been added. Support for the newly presented claims is found throughout the Specification.

The Office Action asserted as follows: (1) Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 for indefiniteness; and (2) Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,407,870 (“Hurevich”). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

With respect to the rejection for indefiniteness, as indicated above, original Claims 1-13 have been canceled. Thus, and without conceding the issue of whether this rejection was correct, the rejection of Claims 1-13 for indefiniteness is moot. It is submitted that newly presented Claims 14-26 comply fully with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 1-13 also stand rejected as anticipated by Hurevich. Again, Claims 1-13 have been canceled herewith. Moreover, none of the newly presented claims is anticipated by Hurevich.

As recited in independent Claim 14, the laser beam shaper shapes asymmetrical laser light beams generated by a light source in slow and fast axis directions. The claimed laser beam shaper comprises: a first focusing element comprising an acylindrical lens located at a distance from a light source such that the beams in the direction of the fast axis are imaged directly onto an output plain of a beam shaper element; a first multi-segment element comprising a multi-edged prism, wherein surface segments of the first multi-segment element refract the asymmetrical light beams such that the refracted beams propagate non-uniformly in the direction of the fast and slow axis without overlapping with one another; and a second

multi-segment element comprising a set of glass plates having input and output surfaces, wherein the first and second multi-segment elements separate and redistribute the light beams, and image the light source, in the direction of the slow axis. As explained in the Specification, contrary to previous beam shapers, which collimate and reshape beams only in one axis, the beam shaper as claimed in Claim 14 of the present application shapes asymmetrical laser light beams generated by a light source in both slow and fast axis directions.

The beam shaper as claimed in Claim 14 of the present application is neither disclosed in, nor suggested by, Hurevich. Hurevich is directed to collimating and reshaping beams only in the direction of one axis (*e.g.*, the fast axis). Hurevich does not teach or suggest a laser beam shaper that shapes asymmetrical laser light beams in two directions (*i.e.*, the slow and fast axis). Hurevich also does not teach or suggest a laser beam shaper that includes a first multi-segment element comprising a multi-edged prism, wherein surface segments of the first multi-segment element refract the asymmetrical light beams such that the refracted beams propagate non-uniformly in the direction of the fast and slow axis without overlapping with one another, as recited in Claim 14. Furthermore, Hurevich fails to teach or suggest a first focusing element comprising an acylindrical lens located at a distance from the light source such that the beams in the direction of the fast axis are imaged directly onto an output plain of the beam shaper element, as recited in Claim 14. The presently claimed invention thus results in a shaped beam with higher brightness than can be achieved by the beam shaper in Hurevich.

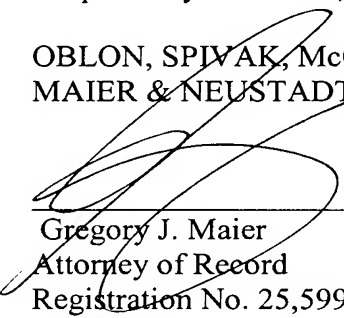
Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, independent Claim 14 is patentable over Hurevich. Furthermore, because Claim 14 is patentable over Hurevich, dependent Claims 15-28 also are patentable over the applied reference.

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It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance,  
and a favorable decision to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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